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Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/71/L.66

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. Draft resolution A/71/L.66, on strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, aims to establish the Office of Counter-Terrorism, based on the review made by the Secretary-General in his report on the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/71/858), issued in response to General Assembly resolution 70/291 of 1 July 2016.

2. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that dedicated United Nations senior counter-terrorism leadership was required owing to the transnational, dynamic and multidimensional nature of the terrorist threat; the increasing number and scope of counter-terrorism mandates given to United Nations entities over the past decade; the growing demands from Member States and regional organizations to support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; the growing need for stronger United Nations coordination efforts; the political implications of the evolving threat; and increasing demands from Member States. Accordingly, the Secretary-General recommended to the General Assembly to establish a new Office of Counter-Terrorism headed by an Under-Secretary-General.

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II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

3. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 to 4 of draft resolution A/71/L.66, the General Assembly would:

(a) Welcome the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and decide to establish the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in accordance with the competencies and functions set out in the report;

(b) Welcome the initiative of the Secretary-General to transfer the current Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, together with their existing staff, as well as all associated regular and extrabudgetary resources, out of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, into the Office of Counter-Terrorism;

(c) Recognize the important work carried out by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and emphasize that the existing contribution agreements and the functions, chairmanship and composition of the Centre's Advisory Board shall be maintained and that the budget financial resources of the Counter-Terrorism Centre shall be used only for its programme of work;

(d) Emphasize the need to ensure that the Office of Counter-Terrorism, to be headed by an Under-Secretary-General, is provided with adequate capacity and other resources for the implementation of its mandated activities.

III. Relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, and programme budgets for the biennium 2016-2017 and 2018-2019

4. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 2, Political affairs, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019. These activities also relate to section 3, Political affairs, and section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.

5. Subject to the adoption of the draft resolution, the following changes to subprogramme 6 of programme 2, Political affairs, will be presented to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-seventh session, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 58/269:

(a) Modifications required in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6/Rev.1):

Subprogramme 6

Office of Counter-Terrorism

Strategy

2.14 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which plays the central role in ensuring overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system. The Office will continue to support the efforts of Member States to implement all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by coordinating efforts of United Nations system entities that offer their experience and advice to Member States. The Office will enhance partnerships with Member States, relevant regional and subregional

organizations and civil society to strengthen implementation of the Strategy and enhance access to assistance, information and good practices to that end. The Office will also address issues related to the overall United Nations response to global terrorism challenges.

(b) Modifications required in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1):

Subprogramme 6

Office of Counter-Terrorism

Strategy

2.14 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which, under the leadership of its Under-Secretary-General, performs core secretariat functions to support the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in ensuring overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which was established within the Office, provides capacity-building assistance to Member States. The Office will continue to support the efforts of Member States to implement all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy — (a) addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; (b) preventing and combating terrorism; (c) building the capacity of States to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthening the role of the United Nations system in this regard; and (d) ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism — by coordinating the efforts of United Nations system entities that offer their experience and advice to Member States. The Office will enhance partnerships with Member States, relevant regional and subregional organizations and civil society to strengthen implementation of the Strategy and enhance access to assistance, information and good practices to that end. The Office will also address issues related to the overall United Nations response to global terrorism challenges.

6. The objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievements and outputs under the subprogramme will remain unchanged.

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

7. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 1 to 4 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would establish a new Office of Counter-Terrorism as a separate component under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget, to be headed by an Under-Secretary-General reporting directly to the Secretary-General. The functions of this Office would be as follows:

(a) Provide leadership on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system;

(b) Enhance coordination and coherence across the 38 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy;

(c) Strengthen the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States;

(d) Improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts;

(e) Ensure that due priority is given to counter-terrorism across the United Nations system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.

8. Following the approval by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would:

(a) Appoint an Under-Secretary-General, to be supported by a Special Assistant at the P-3 level, to serve as head of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and provide strategic leadership to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, participate in the decision-making process of the United Nations, and ensure that the cross-cutting origins and impact of terrorism are reflected in the work of the United Nations;

(b) Transfer from the Department of Political Affairs to the Office of Counter-Terrorism the current Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, together with their existing staff, as well as all associated regular and extrabudgetary resources;

(c) Ensure that existing contribution agreements and the functions, chairmanship and composition of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre Advisory Board will be maintained, and that the budget and financial resources of the Counter-Terrorism Centre shall be used only for its programme of work;

(d) Ensure that the Office of Counter-Terrorism is provided with adequate capacity and other resources for the implementation of its mandated activities.

V. Estimated resource requirements

9. Pursuant to the decision contained in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, it is estimated that additional requirements in the amount of $390,600 would arise for the biennium 2016-2017 under sections 3, Political affairs, 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and 36, Staff assessment, which would cover the costs of: (a) the establishment of two posts (1 Under-Secretary-General and 1 P-3); and (b) other operational expenses. The details of these additional resource requirements are set out in the table below.

Additional resource requirements, by section of the programme budget

(United States dollars)

	Resource requirements for 2017	*Resource requirements for 2018-2019*
Section 3, Political affairs		
Posts: 1 Under-Secretary-General and 1 P-3	127 200	907 200
Official travel of staff	28 600	114 300
Contractual services	2 100	8 400
General operating expenses	500	2 200
Supplies and materials	500	2 000
Furniture and equipment	3 800	–
Subtotal, section 3	**162 700**	**1 034 100**

	Resource requirements for 2017[a]	*Resource requirements for 2018-2019*
Section 29D, Office of Central Support Services		
Rental of premises	15 900	63 600
Alteration and furniture	194 600	–
Subtotal, section 29D	**210 500**	**63 600**
Section 36, Staff assessment		
Staff assessment	17 400	124 200
Subtotal, section 36	**17 400**	**124 200**
Total	**390 600**	**1 221 900**

[a] For six months.

VI. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2016-2017

10. The adoption by the General Assembly of draft resolution A/71/L.66 would entail additional requirements of $390,600 under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. However, these requirements would be absorbed within the programme budget approved for the biennium 2016-2017.

11. Owing to the timing of the draft resolution A/71/L.66, the requirements for 2018-2019 cannot be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019. Subject to the adoption of the draft resolution by the General Assembly, these requirements would be presented in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 in line with existing budgetary procedures.

VII. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

12. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/71/L.66, additional resource requirements in the amount of $390,600, comprising $162,700 under section 3, Political affairs, $210, 500 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and $17,400 under section 36, Staff assessment, would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. However, the amount of $390,600 would be absorbed within the programme budget approved for the biennium 2016-2017.**

13. **The General Assembly is requested to take note of the report and to approve the establishment of two posts (1 Under-Secretary-General and 1 P-3), under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.**